



Minutes

Friday, March 23, 2012
1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present

Patricia Arney
Ben Boivin
Lou Gueriero
Jack Hepworth
Richard Lammers
Greg Mierle
Tracey Rast
Ian Turnbull

Nic Bell
Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Piret Hurrell
Mary McCulley
Rob Milligan
Geoff Ross
Scott Young

Bob Bergquist
Patsy Cross
Gord Henderson
Caroline Konarzewski
Jan McDonnell
Michael Peppard
Peter Seybold

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Dan Brooks
Steve Inniss
Steve Munro
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Lyle Steep
Paul Wiancko

Shane Baker
Louise Cragg
Anna Mallin
Ruth Nishikawa
Peter Sale
Paul Stueck

Lola Bratty
Neil Hutchinson
Don McVittie
Ken Riley
Al Shaw
Debbie Vernon

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Marg French

Guests

Chris Marshall

Leora Berman (until 1:50 pm)

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Patricia welcomed Nic Bell, who replaces Don MacKay as a representative from the golf industry.

Presentation

[The Land Between](#) – Leora Berman, Directing Manager of [The Land Between](#)

Points from discussion following the presentation:

- TLB has just become a non-profit organization based on memberships. The board is composed of eight members and projects are primarily accomplished through partnerships and funding applications.
- TLB does education as opposed to advocacy.
- TLB has completed a natural heritage strategy through the WIP.

- Their concerns with climate change include preserving the edge habitats in TLB and greenway areas. Leora thinks that things might shift within the area but that the entire area won't shift since it is based where limestone and granite meet (abiotic factors).
- TLB is looking for Council members. Contact Leora if you are interested.

Patricia thanked Leora for her presentation.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Lou Guerriero, seconded by Jack Hepworth

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated February 17, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter from the Trillium Foundation re: Application 113636
- Letter to MNR re: Parry Sound Muskoka Stewardship Network
- Letter from the Town of Bracebridge re: funding for the Best Practices Program

Chair's Items

- The 'Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up' runs May 1-31. There are two support documents, a Curriculum Guide for K-8 and a Youth Site Co-ordinator Manual for secondary school classes. If anyone knows of a teacher or a student who would like to lead a class project, visit shorelinecleanup.ca. In 2011, 3,144 km of shore were cleaned up and 143,737 kg of litter was picked up.
- On March 3rd, Patricia joined a significant number of MWC members who gave their time to meet with the Trent University students to offer background information for their research on ecosystem services valuation. The students were a very impressive group.
- On March 5th Patricia met with the Georgian College Research Analyst Program students to respond to their questions of clarification on our RFP for a project to analyze the 'impact' of our Report Cards. On March 19th, she attended a half day session at which each of the 6 groups presented their proposals. Patricia has developed a toolbox of their presentations as well as suggestions of ideas that MWC can implement for no cost.
- On March 20, Patricia took MWC's message to the Muskoka Tourism AGM. She found it very interesting that MTMA is promoting two of MWC's key messages; 1) that more marketing to the seasonal residents who are already here needs to be undertaken as they won't add stress on the environment and 2) the need for more promotion of 'off water' attractions. However, many attendees looked puzzled at a plea for more wetland experiences.
- Patricia will be contacting all MWC members to confirm interest in continuing on as a member as well as to request a short bio and a photo for use on the MWC website.
- Patricia will not be attending the April meeting. The meeting will be chaired by Vice-chair Peter Sale.

Updates and New Business

- *March 2012 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
 - Policy & Research Committee – Judi Brouse presented the revised [Aggregates Resources Position Paper](#). Once approved, the paper will be posted on the MWC website for public comment before the paper is finalized.

MOTION by Rob Milligan, seconded by Isobel Heathcote

THAT the Aggregate Resources Position Paper revised February 2, 2012 be approved for public comment on the MWC website.

CARRIED

- Communications Committee – Tracey Rast presented MWC's [social media program](#) and encouraged all MWC members to participate and build our audience.
- Strategic Directions Committee – continues to review the indicators for the Report Card. The next SD meeting date has been moved from Good Friday to April 5th at 10:00 am.
- [Muskoka Stewardship Conference](#) – will be held April 28, 2012
- [Biodiversity Summit](#) – will be held June 6-7, 2012
- *Student Projects*
 - Trent University Research Day in Haliburton - Saturday March 24, 2012
 - Guelph University Student Client Reception - April 4, 2012
 - MWC wetland workshop June 11, 2012
 - RBC, Community Futures, Trans Canada, and BEAM funding applications still outstanding.

Member Organization Updates

- Patsy Cross – Vital Signs Second Annual Speaker Series for Georgian Bay Forever – April 14th 10-3. Visit georgianbayforever.org for more information.
- Peter Seybold – The Muskoka Lakes Association's 2012 Water Quality program is underway. They are working with the District of Muskoka on the review of the water quality model.
- Patricia Arney – The Muskoka Heritage Foundation Native Plant Sale will begin taking orders April 1st for MHF members and April 15th for non-members.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, April 20, 2012 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.